

Give Voice to Montana's Students

Why Volunteer for the SBAC Online Panel for Setting Achievement Levels

Registering for the Online Panel

Panelists will register for a 2-day window within the October 6-17, 2014, time period. Registrations must be submitted online by September 19, 2014; however, prospective panelists are encouraged to schedule and register long before that date. Registration is online: SmarterBalanced.org/OnlinePanel.

- **Step 1 - Select a content area and grade level**
- **Step 2 - Enter your email address and personal information**
- **Step 3 - Check your email for a message and confirm your email address**
- **Step 4 - Select a two-day window between October 6 and 17, 2014**

Panelists will receive an email confirming their participation time slot upon completing registration. Participants will be reminded before their 2-day window.

Questions?

Please contact Judy Snow, OPI State Assessment Director, with any questions about the Online Panel at 406-444-3656 or jsnow@mt.gov.

**Personally identifiable information of individual participants will not be released to the general public and will only be used for the purpose of reminding participants as their selected session time approaches.*

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This fall, K-12 educators, postsecondary educators, parents, and business/community leaders from the governing states of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium will collaborate to develop common achievement levels that are rigorous, fair and accurate for the Smarter Balanced assessments. The Online Panel is an opportunity for thousands of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to participate in the process of recommending achievement level scores for proficiency.

Why Should You Volunteer for the Online Panel?

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) encourages educators and other stakeholders to participate in the Online Panel to ensure Montana students are represented. The experience Montana educators have working with students of all achievement levels and needs is especially valuable. Community leaders and parents also bring valuable perspectives.



Be part of the discussion.

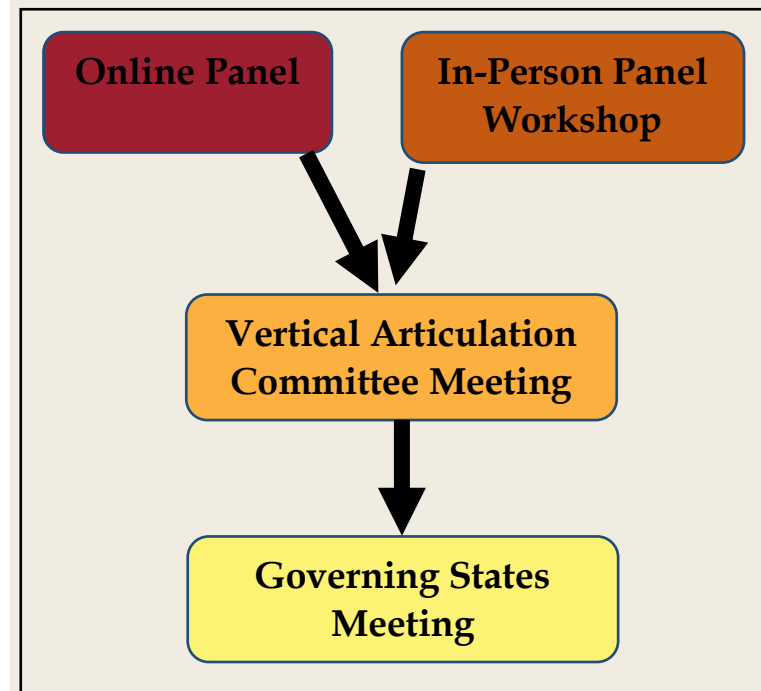
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What is the Process for Setting Achievement Levels?

There are four stages to the process for setting achievement levels:

- **Online Panel** – An opportunity to collect input from a diverse group of participants (educators, administrators, and the general public from participating states) and establish consistent measures of progress for the Smarter Balanced interim and summative assessments.



- **In-Person Panel Workshop** – An opportunity for 500 nominated educators and administrators to engage in a comprehensive review of questions on the assessment and make recommendations for operationalizing common expectations.

- **Vertical Articulation Committee Meeting** – An online opportunity for a committee selected from

participants in the In-Person Workshop to review results from the prior sessions and make recommendations on whether and how to address any discontinuities between grade levels.

- **Smarter Balanced Governing States Meeting** – The recommendations from the Online Panel, the In-Person Panel Workshop and the Vertical Articulation Committee will be presented to the chief school officers in governing states for their consideration and endorsement, in order to establish a common set of performance standards for mathematics and English language arts/Literacy across grades 3-8 and high school.

What are the Responsibilities of Online Panelists?

The objective of the Online Panel is to recommend a cut score for Achievement Level 3, the score that demonstrates how much students should know or be able to do in order to be proficient at the grade-level standards and to be on track for eventual college and career readiness. In order to do this, panelists will:

- take the Smarter Balanced Practice test for their selected grade and content area,
- review content standards and Achievement Level Descriptors,
- examine items for their selected grade/content area
- Identify the items that students should have to answer correctly to be placed at Level 3. Currently in Montana, Level 3 is Proficient and above.